

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) ~~An implantable device for implanting in the vasculature or~~
cardiovasculature for treating a disease, comprising:
 - a) a biodegradable matrix material capable of dissolving upon contact with blood,
and,
 - b) at least one drug, capable of being released into the blood stream as the
biodegradable matrix material dissolves,
~~wherein the at least one drug is released into the body and wherein said device having a~~
ring-like structure, and capable of degrading gradually and completely as the
biodegradable matrix material dissolves or degrades.
2. (cancelled).
3. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~wherein the said~~ biodegradable
matrix material comprisinges a polymeric material, a metallic material, or a combination
thereof.
4. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~wherein the said~~ biodegradable
matrix material comprisinges epoxy, polyester, acrylic, nylon, silicone, polyanhydride,
polyurethane, polylactide poly(L-lactide), poly(D-lactidepoly), copolymer derived
therefrom polylactide poly(L-lactide) or poly(D-lactidepoly), polycarbonate,
poly(tetrafluoroethylene) (PTFE), polycaprolactone, polyethylene oxide, polyethylene
glycol, poly(vinyl chloride), polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, polypropylene oxide,
poly(akylene)glycol, polyoxyethylene, sebacic acid, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), 2-
hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA), polymethyl methacrylate, 1,3-
bis(carboxyphenoxy)propane, phosphatidylcholine, triglyceride, polyhydroxybutyrate
(PHB), polyhydroxyvalerate (PHV), poly(ethylene oxide) (PEO), poly ortho ester, poly
(amino acid), polycynoacrylate, polyphosphazene, polysulfone, polyamine, poly (amido
amine), siloxane-based elastomer, siloxane-based elastomer comprising 3,3,3-
trifluoropropyl groups, lipid, isopropyl styrene, flexible fluoropolymer, vinyl pyrrolidone,

cellulose acetate dibutyrate, silicone rubber, hydroxapatite, fibrin, graphite, manganese-lithium alloy comprising from about 0.5 wt % to about 20 wt % of lithium, or any combination thereof.

5. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~wherein the said~~ biodegradable matrix material comprising a naturally occurring protein, elastin, collagen, albumin, keratin, fibronectin, silk, silk fibroin, actin, myosin, fibrinogen, thrombin, aprotinin, antithrombin III, genetically engineered protein polymer consisting of silk-like blocks, elastin-like blocks, collagen-like blocks, laminin-like blocks, fibronectin-like blocks, ~~and the a~~ combination of silk-like and elastin-like blocks, or any combination thereof.
6. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~wherein the said~~ biodegradable matrix material comprising a shape-memory effect material.
7. (cancelled).
8. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~wherein the said~~ device comprising different areas, with each area comprising a different drug or a different area that comprises the same drug in different concentrations.
9. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~wherein the said~~ at least one drug comprising a resin, fibrate, niacin, statin, ~~Taxol~~®, ~~Paxitaxel~~™, paclitaxel, adenosine, ~~Aldactone~~®, ~~spironolactone~~, alteplase, amlodipine, amiodarone, anistreplase, aspirin, atenolol, atropine, abciximab, captopril, carvedilol, ~~Celebrex~~®, celecoxib, chlorothiazide, cholestyramine, clofibrate, clopidrogel, digoxin, dipyridamole, disopyramide, dobutamine, dofetilide, dopamine, enalapril, epinephrine, felodipine, ~~Flecainide~~, ~~Furosemide~~™, Losartan, Lovastatin, ~~Methylopa~~, ~~Metoprolol~~, ~~Minoxidil~~, nifedipine, ~~Nimodipine~~, ~~Nitroglycerin~~, ~~Pravastatin~~, ~~Procainamide~~, ~~Propranolol~~™, protamine, simvastatin, sotalol, streptokinase, ticlodipine, urokinase, verapamil, warfarin, or any combination thereof.
10. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~wherein the said~~ at least one drug being a ~~is selected from the group consisting of resins, fibrates, niacin and or a~~ statins.

11. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~further~~ comprising one or more particles, ~~wherein the said~~ at least one drug ~~is being~~ coated onto or incorporated into the one or more particles, and the one or more particles are incorporated into the biodegradable matrix material.
12. (currently amended) A device according to claim 11, ~~wherein the said one or more~~ particles comprising iron oxide (Fe₃O₄), titanium, titanium alloy, titaniumoxide (TiO₂), manganese oxide, magnesiumoxide, palladium oxide, palladiumcobalt, ceramic, bioceramic, glass bioglass, glass-ceramic, resin, cement, hydroxyapatite, calcium sulfate, Al₂O₃, tricalcium phosphate, calcium phosphate salt, alginate, carbon, cobalt-based alloy, stainless steel-based alloy, titanium-based alloy, zirconium oxide, zirconia, aluminum-based alloy, vanadium-based alloys, molybdenum-based alloy, nickel-based alloy, iron-based alloy, zinc-based alloy, zinc phosphate, zinc polycarboxylate, or any combination thereof.
13. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~further~~ comprising a drug releasing agent.
14. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~further~~ comprising at least one depots for storing the at least one drug, wherein the at least one depots open as the biodegradable matrix material dissolves or degrades.
15. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~further~~ comprising Zyn-Linkers.
16. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~further~~ comprising a binder.
17. (currently amended) A device according to claim 16, ~~wherein said~~ binder comprising a synthetic polymer, dextran, any sugar based substance, starch, chitosan, agarose, albumin, or any combination thereof.
18. (currently amended) A device according to claim 11, ~~wherein the said one or more~~ particle having a diameter ~~size is~~ in the range from about 40 nanometers to about 1 micrometer.

19. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~further~~ comprising one or more particles capable of changing that change the contrast in a radiological imaging system.
20. (currently amended) A device according to claim 19, ~~wherein the said~~ one or more particles comprising iron-oxide (Fe₃O₄), titanium, titanium-alloys, titaniumoxide (TiO₂), manganese oxide, magnesiumoxide, palladiumoxide, palladiumcobalt, ⁹⁰Y, ¹³³Xe, ^{81m}Kr, ¹¹¹In, ^{133m}In, ²⁰¹Th, or any combination thereof.
21. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~wherein the said~~ device is being attached to a vessel wall via mechanical expansion and clamping.
22. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~wherein the said~~ device is being attached to a vessel wall via glue.
23. (currently amended) A method to treat or prevent a disease, comprising deploying the device of claim 1 into a vessel of a patient's body, wherein the at least one drug being released into the patient's blood stream over a period of time as the biodegradable matrix material dissolves upon contact with the blood and the device degrades.
- a. ~~deploying an implantable device, comprising a biodegradable matrix material, and at least one drug; and~~
- b. ~~releasing the drug as the biodegradable matrix material dissolves or degrades over a period of time,~~
- ~~wherein the device is deployed into a vessel of a patient's body.~~
24. (cancelled).
25. (currently amended) A method according to claim 23, ~~wherein the said~~ disease is being vascular plaque, or cardiovascular plaque, or arteriosclerosis.
26. (cancelled).
27. (currently amended) A method according to claim 23, ~~wherein the said~~ at least one drug comprising a resin, fibrate, niacin, statin, Taxol®, Paxitaxel™ paclitaxel, adenosine, Aldactone® spironolactone, alteplase, amlodipine, amiodarone, anistreplase, aspirin, atenolol, atropine, abciximab, captopril, carvedilol, Celebrex® celecoxib,

chlorothiazide, cholestyramine, clofibrate, clopidrogel, digoxin, dipyridamole, disopyramide, dobutamine, dofetilide, dopamine, enalapril, epinephrine, felodipine, Fflecainide, Ffurosemide™, Hheparin, Hhydralazine, Iibutilide, Iisosorbide dinitrate, Llabetalol, Lidocaine, lisinopril, Losartan, Lovastatin, Methyopa, Mmetoprolol, Mminoxidil, nifedipine, Nnimodipine, Nitropusside, Ppravastatin, Pprocainamide, Ppopranolol™, protamine, simvastatin, sotalol, streptokinase, ticlodipine, urokinase, verapamil, warfarin, or any combination thereof.

28. (currently amended) A method according to claim 23, ~~wherein the said~~ at least one drug comprising an anti-inflammatory agent, ~~and wherein the method is used for treating or preventing vascular or cardiovascular disease, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes, or Alzheimer's disease.~~
29. (currently amended) A method according to claim 23, ~~wherein the said~~ biodegradable matrix material comprising an epoxy, polyester, acrylic, nylon, silicone, polyanhydride, polyurethane, polylactide poly(L-lactide), poly(D-lactidepoly), copolymer derived therefrom polylactide poly(L-lactide) or poly(D-lactidepoly), polycarbonate, poly(tetrafluoroethylene) (PTFE), polycaprolactone, polyethylene oxide, polyethylene glycol, poly(vinyl chloride), polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, polypropylene oxide, poly(akylene)glycol, polyoxyethylene, sebacic acid, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA), polymethyl methacrylate, 1,3-bis(carboxyphenoxy)propane, phosphatidylcholine, triglyceride, polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB), polyhydroxyvalerate (PHV), poly(ethylene oxide) (PEO), poly ortho ester, poly (amino acid), polycynoacrylate, polyphosphazene, polysulfone, polyamine, poly (amido amine), siloxane-based elastomer, siloxane-based elastomer comprising 3,3,3-trifluoropropyl groups, lipid, isopropyl styrene, flexible fluoropolymer, vinyl pyrrolidone, cellulose acetate dibutyrate, silicone rubber, hydroxapatite, fibrin, graphite, manganese-lithium alloy comprising from about 0.5 wt % to about 20 wt % of lithium, or any combination thereof.
30. (currently amended) A method according to claim 23, ~~wherein the at least one drug dilutes over a said~~ period of time being: ~~selected from the group consisting of a)~~ up to ten

years, b) up to one year, c) up to six months, d) up to one month, e) up to one week, and f) up to one day.